

Serial No. 10/731,558
60446-251; 03ZFM014/018

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed remarks and analysis. Claims 14, 16, 18, 19 and 24-27 were finally rejected, claim 17, 20 and 21 have been cancelled, and claims 22, 23, and 28 stand allowed.

Claims 14, 16, 18, 19 and 24-27 were rejected as being anticipated by Genise (U.S. 6,502,476). Genise discloses a method of controlling a centrifugal clutch that includes a provision for preventing overheating of the clutch. However, the method for controlling the clutch in Genise involves the control of engine speed to override operator inputs that cause overheating. *"Upon sensing a potential clutch over-heating problem, the control logic can react by increasing, or decreasing engine RPM"*. (Genise, Col 9, lines 15-20)

Claim 14 requires opening the centrifugal clutch assembly in response to a detected fault condition. Claim 24 requires overriding engagement of a pressure plate and a friction plate at a speed greater than or equal to the desired speed by moving the pressure plate axially away from the engaged position.

The latest office action reads a quick release (200) as meeting the limitation of opening the centrifugal clutch responsive to a fault condition because opening the quick release would result in a decrease of speed of the centrifugal clutch, which in turn would cause the centrifugal clutch to open. Applicant disagrees and requests reconsideration of this rejection for the following reasons.

The quick release (200) is shown in Figure 1 between the clutch and the transmission. The schematic view and brief description at Column 9, lines 31-39 is all that is provided to describe the operation of the quick release. As the quick release (200) is disposed between the centrifugal clutch and the transmission, if opened to disconnect the transfer of torque between the engine and the transmission, the centrifugal clutch would continue being driven by the engine, and therefore remain actuated or closed. Accordingly, the Genise centrifugal clutch would not open responsive to actuation of the release mechanism (200) as described in the last office action, and therefore cannot anticipate claims 14 and 24.

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Further, claim 24 requires moving a pressure plate axially toward an engaged position responsive to radial movement of a plurality of weights and overriding engagement of a pressure plate and friction plate at a speed greater than or equal to a desired speed by moving the pressure plate axially away from the engaged position. The quick release mechanism (200) is not a centrifugal clutch and does not disclose moving a pressure plate from an engaged position provided by radial movement of a plurality of weights. Instead, Genise discloses that the quick release mechanism may be a positive or friction clutch (Col 9, lines 37-38), not a centrifugal clutch as is required by claim 24.

Accordingly, Genise cannot anticipate the limitations of claim 24. It is for these reasons that Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the claims.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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